

What is claimed is:

1. A lighting device having a selectively changeable shape.
- 5 2. The lighting device according to claim 1, comprising:
 - a flexible lighting element; and
 - an adjustable shape-retaining element coupled to said flexible lighting element.
- 10 3. The lighting device according to claim 2, wherein said adjustable shape-retaining element is integrally formed with said flexible lighting element.
- 15 4. The lighting device according to claim 3, wherein:
 - 1 said flexible lighting element includes a plurality of tiny light bulbs molded in a plastic tube; and
 - 2 said adjustable shape-retaining element is molded in said plastic tube.
- 20 5. The lighting device according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - 1 a translucent flexible covering coupled about said flexible lighting element.
- 25 6. The lighting device according to claim 5, wherein said flexible covering is transparent.
7. The lighting device according to claim 1, comprising a flexible lighting element mounted in a translucent, flexible covering, said flexible covering including an adjustable shape-retaining element.

8. The lighting device according to claim 7, wherein said flexible covering is transparent.
9. The lighting device according to claim 2, wherein said flexible lighting element includes a rope light.
10. The lighting device according to claim 2, wherein said adjustable shape-retaining element is a metal wire.
11. The lighting device according to claim 7, wherein said adjustable shape-retaining element includes shapeable wires incorporated in at least part of said flexible covering.
12. A method for providing a selectively changeable shape lighting device, the method comprising coupling an adjustable shape-retaining element to a flexible lighting element.
13. The method according to claim 12, wherein said step of coupling includes integrally forming said adjustable shape-retaining element with said flexible lighting element.
14. The method according to claim 12, further comprising: mounting the flexible lighting element in a translucent flexible covering.
15. The method according to claim 13, further comprising: mounting the flexible lighting element in a translucent flexible covering.
16. The method according to claim 14, wherein said flexible covering is transparent.

17. The method according to claim 15, wherein said flexible covering is transparent.

18. The method according to claim 14, wherein the step of coupling
5 includes incorporating an adjustable shape-retaining element in the flexible covering.

19. The method according to claim 15, wherein the step of coupling
10 includes incorporating an adjustable shape-retaining element in the flexible covering.